

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22389

Unlike many other Idaho professional licensing boards, the Board of Nursing does not have statutory authority to impose fines, except in the rare case of unlicensed practice. The legislation will amend Section 54-1404, Idaho Code, to add authority for the imposition of a fine, not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), as an alternative to formal discipline. The amendment will grant the Board the option and ability to impose the monetary penalty against a nurse who has violated Board statutes or rules where revocation or suspension would be too harsh a sanction. The penalty can be used either as a component of a remediation program or as an alternative to such a program, as circumstances warrant.

FISCAL NOTE

Since the Board of Nursing is a dedicated fund agency, there will be no impact on the General Fund. How the Board's dedicated fund will be impacted is difficult to determine and will depend on how often the Board finds this new authority appropriate. Estimates are that the Board's dedicated fund will be positively impacted between \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year.

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